

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) In a computerized device, a method for verifying that a module is from an approved vendor, the module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code, the method comprising the steps of:

reading the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code therefrom;

generating a second magic code based on the vendor data; and

outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:

forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a second serial number from a second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches the second serial number from the second module.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computerized device includes a memory that stores a magic key, and wherein the step of generating includes the steps of:

reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device; and

forming the second magic code based on the magic key and the vendor data.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of forming includes the step of:

performing a message-digest algorithm operation on the magic key and the vendor data.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vendor data includes a vendor identification number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a module serial number; and wherein the step of generating includes the step of:

forming the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, and the module serial number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the computerized device includes a memory that stores a magic key, and wherein the step of forming includes the steps of:

reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device; and

providing the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number, and the magic key.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the module is a small form factor pluggable component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the step of obtaining includes the step of:

reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the small form factor pluggable component.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the module is a GBIC communication transceiver component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the step of obtaining includes the step of:

reading the vendor data from the non-volatile memory of the GBIC communication transceiver component.

10. (Previously Presented) A computerized device, comprising:

a module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code; and

a controller, coupled to the module, which is configured to

read the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code from the module, generate a second magic code based on the vendor data, and

output a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique

-5-

to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and wherein the computerized device includes a second module, and wherein the controller is further configured to:

obtain a second serial number from the second module, the second module serial number being unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

output a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match with the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches with the second serial number from the second module.

11. (Original) The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the controller includes:

a processor; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, that stores a magic key,

wherein the processor is configured to generate the second magic code by (i) reading the magic key from the memory, and (ii) forming the second magic code based on the magic key and the vendor data.

12. (Original) The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the processor is configured to form the second magic code by performing a message-digest algorithm operation on the magic key and the vendor data.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the vendor data includes a vendor identification number, a character string representing a vendor name, and a module serial number, and wherein the controller is configured to generate the second magic code by forming the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, and the module serial number.

16. (Original) The computerized device of claim 15 wherein the controller includes:

a processor; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, that stores a magic key,

wherein the processor is configured to form the second magic code by (i) reading the magic key from the memory of the computerized device, and (ii) providing the second magic code based on the vendor identification number, the character string representing the vendor name, the module serial number, and the magic key.

17. (Original) The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the module is a small form factor pluggable component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the controller is configured to obtain the vendor data by reading the vendor data from the nonvolatile memory of the small form factor pluggable component.

18. (Original) The computerized device of claim 10 wherein the module is a GBIC communication transceiver component having a non-volatile memory, and wherein the controller is configured to obtain the vendor data by reading the

vendor data from the nonvolatile memory of the GBIC communication transceiver component.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A computerized device, comprising:

- a module including an externally readable memory pre-programmed with vendor data and a first magic code; and

- a controller coupled to the module, the controller including:

- means for reading the memory of the module to obtain the vendor data and first magic code therefrom,

- means for generating a second magic code based on the vendor data, and

- means for outputting a magic code valid signal when the second magic code matches the first magic code, and a magic code invalid signal when the second magic code does not match the first magic code;

wherein the vendor data includes a module serial number, the module serial number being unique to the module when the module is from an approved vendor, and wherein the means for generating includes:

- means for forming the second magic code based on the module serial number;

and wherein the controller further includes:

- means for obtaining a second serial number from a second module, the second module serial number being

unique to the second module when the second module is from an approved vendor; and

means for outputting a serial number valid signal when the module serial number of the vendor data does not match the second serial number from the second module, and a serial number invalid signal when the serial number of the vendor data matches the second serial number from the second module.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the modules are respective first and second communications transceiver components;

the vendor data and first magic code are obtained from a non-volatile memory in the first communications transceiver component;

the vendor data includes data from a vendor name field, a vendor identification number field, and an error-checking field;

the generating and outputting steps are performed as part of a magic code verification routine upon successful completion of an error-checking routine performed on the vendor data;

and further comprising:

performing the error-checking routine on the vendor data;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does not match the second magic code, then identifying the first communications transceiver component as not being from an approved vendor;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does match the second magic code, then repeating the preceding steps and the steps of claim 1 for the second communications transceiver component;

and further wherein:

the serial number valid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as being from an approved vendor;

the serial number invalid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as not being from an approved vendor; and

the step of outputting the serial number valid signal and serial number invalid signal is performed only if the first magic code matches the second magic code during the magic code verification routine for both the first and second communications transceiver components.

24. (Previously presented) A computerized device according to claim 10, wherein:

the modules are respective first and second communications transceiver components;

the vendor data and first magic code are obtained from a non-volatile memory in the first communications transceiver component;

the vendor data includes data from a vendor name field, a vendor identification number field, and an error-checking field;

the controller is configured to generate the second magic code and output the magic code valid signal and magic code invalid signal as part of a magic code verification routine upon successful completion of an error-checking routine performed on the vendor data;

and wherein the controller is further configured to:

perform the error-checking routine on the vendor data;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does not match the second magic code, then identify the first communications transceiver component as not being from an approved vendor;

if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does match the second magic code, then repeat the preceding steps and the steps of claim 10 for the second communications transceiver component;

and further wherein:

the serial number valid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as being from an approved vendor;

the serial number invalid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as not being from an approved vendor; and

the step of outputting the serial number valid signal and serial number invalid signal is performed only if the first magic code matches the second magic code during the magic code verification routine for both the first and second communications transceiver components.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) A computerized device according to claim 22, wherein:

the modules are respective first and second communications transceiver components;

the vendor data and magic code are obtained from a non-volatile memory in the first communications transceiver component;

the vendor data includes data from a vendor name field, a vendor identification number field, and an error-checking field;

the generating and outputting steps are performed as part of a magic code verification routine upon successful completion of an error-checking routine performed on the vendor data;

and wherein the controller further comprises:

means for performing the error-checking routine on the vendor data;

means operative if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does not match the second magic code, for identifying the first communications transceiver component as not being from an approved vendor;

means operative if during the magic code verification routine the first magic code does match the second magic code, for repeating the preceding

steps and the steps of claim 22 for the second communications transceiver component;

and further wherein:

the serial number valid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as being from an approved vendor;

the serial number invalid signal indicates that the first communications transceiver component has been identified as not being from an approved vendor; and

the outputting of the serial number valid signal and serial number invalid signal is performed only if the first magic code matches the second magic code during the magic code verification routine for both the first and second communications transceiver components.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the module being verified as from an approved vendor is a first module having a first module serial number, first vendor data, and first magic code;

the method is performed by a controller of a circuit board containing the first module, the circuit board being from a circuit board supplier; and

when the first module is from an approved vendor:

(1) the first module serial number is a selected one of a range of serial numbers provided to the approved vendor by the circuit board supplier;

(2) the first vendor data and first magic code are stored in the memory of the first module as specified by the circuit board supplier;

(3) the magic key is provided to the approved vendor by the circuit board supplier and is not stored in the memory of the first module; and

(4) the first magic code is generated by the approved vendor using the magic key and the first vendor data provided by the circuit board supplier.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein the first and second modules are both contained on the circuit board.

29. (Previously presented) A computerized device according to claim 10, wherein:

the module of the computerized device is a first module having a first module serial number, first vendor data, and first magic code;

the computerized device is from a computerized device supplier; and
when the first module is from an approved vendor:

(1) the first module serial number is a selected one of a range of serial numbers provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier;

(2) the first vendor data and first magic code are stored in the memory of the first module as specified by the computerized device supplier;

(3) the magic key is provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier and is not stored in the memory of the first module; and

(4) the first magic code is generated by the approved vendor using the magic key and the first vendor data provided by the computerized device supplier.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) A computerized device according to claim 22, wherein:

the module of the computerized device is a first module having a first module serial number, first vendor data, and first magic code;

the computerized device is from a computerized device supplier; and
when the first module is from an approved vendor:

(1) the first module serial number is a selected one of a range of serial numbers provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier;

(2) the first vendor data and first magic code are stored in the memory of the first module as specified by the computerized device supplier;

(3) the magic key is provided to the approved vendor by the computerized device supplier and is not stored in the memory of the first module; and

(4) the first magic code is generated by the approved vendor using the magic key and the first vendor data provided by the computerized device supplier.

32. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the externally readable memory of the module is a non-volatile memory pre-programmed with the vendor data and the first magic code prior to assembling the module into the computerized device.

33. (New) A computerized device according to claim 10, wherein the externally readable memory of the module is a non-volatile memory pre-programmed with the vendor data and the first magic code prior to assembling the module into the computerized device.

34. (New) A computerized device according to claim 22, wherein the externally readable memory of the module is a non-volatile memory pre-programmed with the vendor data and the first magic code prior to assembling the module into the computerized device.